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# Soviet Radars Of Concern to U.S. Removed

## *Officials Dispute Motive for Action*

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The Soviet Union has removed several missile defense radars that were said by the Reagan administration to be a key part of alleged Soviet preparations to break out of the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty, U.S. intelligence experts said yesterday.

Removal of the radars at the Soviet missile test center in Sary Shagan began last fall and was completed recently, the officials said, leading some experts at the State Department to speculate that the Soviets are making a concerted effort to resolve a major concern raised by the United States.

However, some officials at the Defense Department dispute this interpretation, arguing that removal of the radars indicates the Soviets are preparing for testing or deployment of more modern equipment. No hard evidence exists for either view, and the Soviets have said nothing to clarify the issue.

The dispute concerns a large, phased-array radar with two faces known to American analysts as "Flat Twin," and a smaller radar with three spherical antennas known as "Pawn Shop." First erected in the early 1970s, the radars were designed to track incoming ballistic missiles and guide interceptors to destroy the missiles in a nuclear explosion.

In a report to Congress, the Reagan administration said last March that Soviet development and testing of the radars "represents a potential violation of its legal obligations under the ABM Treaty," because the radars could be erected within months with little preparation.

The administration said this potentially violated a ban on "mobile, land-based" ABM radars. Viewed in concert with "other ABM-related Soviet actions," the administration report said, it suggested "that the U.S.S.R. may be preparing an ABM defense of its national territory."

Since then, the Soviets have removed most, if not all, of the radars at Sary Shagan, which officials said never numbered more than five. One official said that the equipment remaining there "may be able to perform the function" of a radar, but another official disagreed.

No one disputes that a similar, but slightly newer, Flat Twin radar that was moved from Sary Shagan to the Soviet's Kamchatka Peninsula in 1975 remains standing. But several officials said the work so far at Sary Shagan indicates a willingness by the Soviets to "clean up their ABM compliance act."

This judgment is influenced in part by recent statements from several Soviet officials, including Georgi Arbatov, director of the Soviet Institute on the U.S.A. and Canada, that work on a more controversial radar near the city of Krasnoyarsk has been deliberately halted. Arbatov first made the remarks during a U.S. visit in December, according to U.S. experts and diplomatic sources.

Administration officials and independent experts have called the Krasnoyarsk radar a blatant violation of an ABM Treaty provision governing where such devices can be located.

But intelligence information on the Krasnoyarsk radar, like the evidence on Flat Twin and Pawn Shop, remains ambiguous, according to U.S. officials.

They said the outward appearance of the Krasnoyarsk radar has changed, and some intelligence analysts believe this is because the Soviets have removed a portion of its exterior weather-protection panels. But other analysts believe the appearance of change is caused by cloud shadows.

Some analysts also claimed that normal construction activities at the Krasnoyarsk site have ceased, leaving several key buildings for supporting equipment unfinished, but other analysts stressed that exterior construction was "fundamentally" completed.